

GRAD newsletter

Feb '78
Vol.3, No.2

Published by the Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University

2145 Mackay St. S-306

Tel: 879-7219

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Changes in the G.S.A. Constitution as outlined in the previous newsletter have finally been approved by the Board of Governors of Concordia University. These changes were in accordance with the numerous structural changes in the university within the past few years.

FALL PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

The Fall Party, held November 11 of last year, was the best in G.S.A. history. Approximately 600 students turned out to have a good time. Many thanks to the Deans and Program Directors who came. Special thanks to Rajender Sipehia, Giuseppe Matteo, Omair Ahmad and Charles Berks for their hard work in organising this party, as well as our secretary Mavis Nicholls.

SPRING PARTY

The G.S.A. will be holding a Spring Party on March 10, 1978. There will be Disco music and dancing. Food will be served. Beer will be available for the cheap price of three for \$1.00. Come and have a good time. You are allowed to bring one guest. I.D. required.

Date: Friday, March 10, 1978

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: H-651

UNDEFINED STATUS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FOREIGN GRADUATE STUDENTS

If you work in Quebec you must pay for provincial health insurance. A foreign student studying in Quebec is not entitled to receive medicare benefits. But a student who teaches or demonstrates as part of his/her graduate studies, has unclear status, caught between two ministries, required to pay for, but not receive, medical coverage.

For the last year a group of foreign students in the Department of Chemistry, has tried to tackle this problem. The Régie de l'Assurance de Maladie has jurisdiction over determining coverage and eligibility, but the funds for the medicare program are collected by the Ministère du Revenu. The Concordia Accounting Department must continue to withhold medicare payments from paycheques because it is the law.

At present foreign graduate students are also obligated to buy insurance through the university, as well as Quebec Health Insurance.

The G.S.A. has asked the Dean of Students, Magnus Flynn, to look into this matter.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Rector, Vice-Rectors and Academic Deans by the G.S.A.

Dear Sir/Madame:

We write this letter to you to make clear our position on one of the most important issues concerning graduate students, teaching assistantships. In the past the increases paid to TA's have not kept pace with the increase in the cost of living. The result has been that more and more graduate students have been forced (often in vain) to search for other additional sources of income. Such activity can only have a detrimental effect on the students' academic and research undertakings. Only by indexing TA salary increases to increases in the cost of living can the present situation be corrected. We feel that the course of action would help bolster research programs at Concordia and put us in a more competitive position with other Canadian universities with respect to acquiring research grants as well as in the recruitment of prospective graduate students.

As things stand today most TA's at Concordia receive substantially less per year than their counterparts at other institutions. We hope that you will agree with us that such a situation should not be allowed to continue. And since this matter is clearly so important to the graduate students of Concordia, this letter will be published in the Grad Newsletter, Vol.3, No.2, February 1978.

Hoping to see you in the near future to discuss our position.

Most sincerely,
Rajender Sipehia
Rajender Sipehia
President, G.S.A.

LAURIER LAPIERRE

On Tuesday, February 7, the G.S.A. presented Dr. Laurier Lapierre in Room H-110. Laurier Lapierre is one of the most knowledgeable and articulate bilingual commentators on the Canadian scene. He is host of the weekly CBMT-6 interview series "Lapierre" and a well known historian-author.

The topic of Dr. Lapierre's talk was "The Dilemma of Wanting a New Constitution". We are grateful to the more than 200 people who turned up for the occasion, especially in view of the inclement weather which was experienced that afternoon. The G.S.A. especially thanks Dr. Lapierre for making the day a thought provoking and enjoyable one for all involved.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS

PROFESSOR KEITH LAIDLER

Dr. K.J. Laidler is a professor of chemistry at the University of Ottawa and world renown for his research activities in the field of chemical kinetics. Dr. Laidler has published over 250 articles in various scientific journals. He has been carrying out highly academic research in the field of chemical kinetics, Mechanism of Pyrolysis, Elementary Processes in Gas-Phase, Unimolecular Reactions in Solutions of High Pressure and Enzyme Reactions.

Topic: Diffusional Effects in Chemical Kinetics
Date: March 3, 1978
Time: 2:15 p.m.
Place: H-1070

JAMES RESTON

James Reston, whose "Washington" column appears on the Op-Ed page of The New York Times every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, has been reporting from the U.S. capital, with only a brief interruption, for the past 31 years. Mr. Reston was named Associate Editor of The Times in 1964. In 1968 he became Executive Editor of The New York Times. He retired in 1974 from the Vice-Presidency of the company and assumed the title of columnist.

Mr. Reston has written three books. He is also a member of the World Book's Year Book Board of Editors. Through the years James Reston has been the recipient of a number of Journalism awards, academic degrees and government honours.

Topic: The Separatist Question in Canada
Date: Friday, March 3, 1978
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: H-110

DR. THOMAS S. SZASZ

An internationally renowned leader in the field of human rights, Dr. Szasz is Professor of Psychiatry, Upstate Medical Centre, Syracuse, New York. He has repudiated the practice of involuntary mental hospitalization as criminal and a violation of the most fundamental right to freedom. He was the forerunner of a movement questioning the medical model of schizophrenia that has led to a growing awareness of the political implications of being "treated" against one's will. He is author of the classic work "The Myth of Mental Illness".

Topic: Involuntary Mental Hospitalization
Date: Saturday, March 18, 1978
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: H-937, Hall Building

For further information please call 521-8487

CONCORDIA-WIDE UNIFIED POLICY FOR MASTERS THESIS DEFENCE SOUGHT

In response to a proposal from the G.S.A., Dean French has announced a set of regulations to govern Masters Thesis Defence. These regulations have yet to be considered for approval by the Board of Graduate Studies. Highlights of the proposed requirements for Masters Thesis Examinations include:

- 1) The defence will be judged solely by the candidate's examining committee.
- 2) The Chairman will give priority to questions from members of the examining committee.
- 3) The decision of the examining committee is based both on the thesis and on the candidate's ability to defend it.

COMMERCE GRADUATE STUDENTS' FACULTY - WIDE ASSOCIATION

Negotiations are underway between M.B.A. and D.I.A.S.A. students for a unified association for all graduate students in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

G.S.A. COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rajender Sipehia.....President
Guisepppe Matteo.....Vice-President
Nora-Jean Hibberd.....Secretary-Treasurer

Omair Ahmad.....Engineering Representative
Michael Daskalakis.....Arts Representative
Charles Berks.....Science Representative
Marie-Josée de Lorenzi.....Fine Arts Representative
Donald Silver.....Commerce Representative